

Patent Application No. 09/821,168

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 12, and add claims 13-15 as follows:

1 Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile agent
2 that travels through a network of a number of computers, wherein the
3 mobile agent is executed in a sequence of stages and wherein each stage
4 comprises a set of places, the method comprising the following steps:
5 executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a
6 respective one of the stages,
7 evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent
8 has been executed successfully,
9 agreeing on this place among the set of places,
10 aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile
11 agent in any other place of the respective stage, and
12 moving ~~the~~ a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful
13 execution to the next stage.

1 Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are
2 repeated for any one of the sequence of stages.

1 Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile
2 agent is executed sequentially in the set of places of the respective
3 stage, and wherein the mobile agent is not executed anymore in subsequent
4 places after successful execution in one of the set of places and
5 agreement on this successful execution.

1 Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a decision is
2 generated in each stage including at least one of a primary place that
3 corresponds to the place in which the mobile agent has executed
4 successfully, the set of places of the next stage to which the modified
5 mobile agent is moved, and/or the resulting modified mobile agent.

1 Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein at least one
2 of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage and/or the
3 resulting modified mobile agent is confirmed to at least all other places
4 of the respective stage except the primary place.

1 Claim 6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein at least one
2 of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage and/or the
3 resulting modified mobile agent is moved to all places of the next stage.

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1 Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the move is
2 performed as a reliable forward function.

1 Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are
2 managed by a fault-tolerance enabler (FTE) which is independent of the
3 mobile agent.

1 Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the FTE
2 travels with the mobile agent to the set of places of the respective
3 stage.

1 Claim 10. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising
2 program code means for use for operating a mobile agent that travels
3 through a network of a number of computers, wherein the mobile agent is
4 executed in a sequence of stages and wherein each stage comprises a set of
5 places, the computer program product comprising instructions for:
6 executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a
7 respective one of the stages,
8 evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent
9 has been executed successfully,
10 agreeing on this place among the set of places,
11 aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile
12 agent in any other place of the respective stage, and
13 moving ~~the~~ a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful
14 execution to the next stage.

1 Claim 11. (original) Computer program product according to claim
2 10, wherein the program code means is stored on a computer-readable
3 medium.

1 Claim 12. (currently amended) A network of a number of computers in
2 which a mobile agent is travelling traveling through, wherein the network
3 comprises a sequence of stages, wherein each stage comprises a set of
4 places, and wherein the mobile agent is executed in at least one of the
5 set of places of a respective one of the stages, the network comprising
6 means for evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile
7 agent has been executed successfully, means for agreeing on this place
8 among the set of places, means for aborting and/or undoing any operation
9 in connection with the mobile agent in any other place of the respective

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10 stage, and means for moving the a modified mobile agent resulting from the
11 successful execution to the next stage.

1 Claim 13. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile agent is
2 a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of an agent owner or
3 user and that travels through a network of a number of computers.

1 Claim 14. (new) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein
2 the mobile agent is a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of
3 an agent owner or user and that travels through a network of a number of
4 computers.

1 Claim 15. (new) The network of claim 12, wherein the mobile agent
2 is a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of an agent owner
3 or user and that travels through a network of a number of computers.